Seizure of fake drugs in the capital

24. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently fake drugs worth Rs. 1 crore were seized from some of the godowns of the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) what are the reasons that the sub-standard and spurious drugs manufacturing is on the rise despite existing laws and Government machinery to control the same;

(d) whether there is a need to amend the existing laws to make it more effective for curbing the manufacturing and marketing of the fake drugs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Based on the FIR lodged on July 3, 2001 by Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance with P.S. Kotwali, Delhi that some persons in and around Bhagirath Place, Chandni Chowk, Delhi were indulging in illegal trade of fake medicines, the Delhi Police and Officers of Delhi Drugs Control Administration, Government of Delhi have jointly unearthed and detected an inter-state spurious drug racket clandestinely manufacturing, selling and distributing fake medicines. The police have arrested persons who were connected with said activities and seized huge stock of drugs from their possession.

(c) As per the feedback given by Drugs Control Administration Delhi, there is no rise in the substandard spurious drug manufacturing in Delhi. Since manufacture and sale of spurious medicines is a clandestine activity indulged by anti-social persons. Steps are being taken by the enforcement authorities of the State to detect and unearth spurious drugs.

(d) to (f) Under the provision of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, Section 17(B) deems spurious drug as a medicine manufactured under a name which belongs to another drug, or if it is an imitation or substitute, wholly or partly of another drug, or if the lebel or container bears the name of a fictitious or nonexistent firm Section 27 of the said Act prescribes penal provisions for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. Sale of spurious drug, if detected, is punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extent to a term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000'-.

Hence there are adequate provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to tackle the problem of spurious drugs.

Medicine for Asthma

25. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India for the first time in the world has developed a medicine for the relief and remedy of Asthma;

(b) if so, what is its name; and

(c) whether the medicine has been duly tested and proved successful in curing the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) According to Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) a herbal medicine for Asthma has been developed by that institute by the name of ASMON. Toxicity and efficacy of this medicine is stated to have been tested in animal model (guinea-pigs) which yielded successful results.